

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following:

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--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

E1 This is ~~a continuation~~ application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial Number 09/837,448 entitled "Alignment of TDM-based signals for Packet Transmission using Framed and Unframed Operations" filed March 31, 2001.--

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